

Planning Work Group *
October 16, 2003 Meeting Notes

*Next meeting Nov 20
Denali Commission 9-12*

Meeting Attendance: Gene Kane Chair, Jeff Staser, Al Ewing, Berney Richert, Bill Allen, Colleen Bickford, Mike Black, Michelle Anderson, Sheila Kopczynski, Paul McIntosh, Rachael Petro, Yuri Morgan, Bruce Tiedeman, John Gliva, Celeste Sozoff, Keith Jost, Gerry McDonagh, Ruth St. Amour, Gillian Smythe, Greg Gould, Cindy Roberts Guests: Ralph Hogge ANTHC, Sue Davis AK Legislature, Mike Pawlowski Office of Cheryl Heinze, Sue Cogswell PWSEDD

Alaska Tribal Health Consortium Activities

Ralph Hogge - Director of Regional Facility Services for the Division of Environmental Health and Engineering briefed the group on the range of services and personnel provided by ANTHC. Of ANTHC's \$94 MM FY '04 budget, \$63.3 MM goes to sanitation and \$6.3 goes to clinic projects.

At the current high level of funding, all communities could have 100% safe water in 10 years. There are questions re "community readiness", appropriate technology, financial strength of the communities, and ability to keep up with maintenance.

Ways the Planning Group can help:

- a. standardize cross-agency definitions and measurements
- b. illustrate graphically how all agency programs fit together and can coordinate missions.

Mapping - John Gliva & Keith Jost

Mission of IAID is to provide 200 community maps over 5 years. These maps are the basis for community planning and inter-agency co-ordination. In ANCSA communities, the IAID maps are particularly useful in displaying the land that has been conveyed to the local Native Corporation and the land that the Native Corporation will reconvey to residents, businesses and the community under the provisions of section 14(c) of ANCSA. Flood plain information and the high water mark of significance is added to 2' contours with local input and Corps of Engineers assistance.

DCED has a clearing house role to develop the maps and serve as a library for both public and private sector projects. Funding for new projects is pooled from agencies especially the Denali Commission, USDA RD and ADOT/PF. As other projects are developed, funding is pooled to ensure the maps meet the standard criteria.

IAID is aimed at communities smaller than 2,500 population and based on a minimum of 6 communities. The contract generally runs \$200K per region. Because of collaboration and timing efficiencies of obtaining photography etc,

approximately 1/3 cost savings result. Celeste Sozoff of DOT/PF in Fairbanks announced that the department has cleared the funding to support IAID (\$270K). Bill Allen reported that USDA RD had a 3-year commitment of \$150K for IAID which was never drawn down. John Gliva with DCED explained that the short term money was used first so that it would not be lost. The USDA money will plug into the upcoming projects.

There are currently 27 communities under contract. Jeff added that the Boroughs have a legal responsibility to ensure that the maps are kept current. Susan Davis asked what the coordination is with the GIS system used by NPS. Information from GIS mapping like the NPS can be incorporated into the community profile maps. Likewise the final community profile drawing files can be brought into various GIS softwares.

Two of DCED's partner's, the Lake and Peninsula Borough and the Bristol Bay Native Association have recently gathered the funding to develop GIS's and integrate the new mapping in their respective regions. Michelle Anderson commented on trespass issues. Some local data is avoided to protect a resource from risk (ex. archeological sites). Current contracts are also flying smaller scale photos to put the area in a larger context.

The '04 Federal Highways appropriation puts IAID monies into the STIP so funds do not expire and can be extended to the next budget year. (At the same time, there is need to watch spending closely so it maintains priority status in the STIP.)

RE projects "in the pipeline", there are 4 project regions pending currently: Aleutians East Borough, Lake and Peninsula Borough Lake - Iliamna villages and the Alaska Peninsula, Bristol Bay Native Association – Dillingham area villages.

Suggestion: IAID program be scheduled with Federal Executives' Association. Building Our Communities conference in 4/04 would like to schedule IAID, too.

Shishmaref Tannery Project Update - Berney Richert EDA

The tannery is one of the bright spots in Shishmaref. It receives orders from across the nation and internationally. It has had stable management over the last 5 or 6 years and 2 of the last 4 years it has operated in the black. It employs 3-5 directly and supports approximately 150 hunters. It is owned by the Shishmaref Tribal Council and is seen as a positive cultural fit with the community as all parts of the animals are utilized. Next summer, Chukotka "sea hunters" will be visiting the plant. (see full notes below)

New Workforce Investment Strategy - Gerry McDonagh

The Department of Labor and Workforce Development has a new approach to linking economic development and workforce development. The Division of Business Partnerships has designed a standard application for grant funding with deadlines of 10/31 and 12/15. All pots of training money go through the same system. The autumn application package is available at www.labor.state.ak.us/bp/grants.htm. The intent is to ensure that high quality training and projects are available to prepare Alaskans for high demand and good wage jobs. The 1 page application replaces a 28 page application by Workforce investment Agency of the US Department of Labor. AWIB is looking for performance criteria for each funding agency.

The Denali Training Fund has 90% placement and is focused on the goal that employees have an increase in wages 6 months into a job.

Access to the Future Initiative Update - Gene Kane

Commissioner Blatchford is speaking to AFN about the subregional development ideas in Access to the Future, especially Nelson Island. A pioneer road has been requested to join the 3 communities on the island. The Donlin Creek/ Crooked Creek is an example of how the Access to the Future provisions complement major economic development projects.

Denali Commission Access Program – Yuri Morgan

A draft of the program Guiding Principles for Capital Allocation was circulated. It will be on the agenda 11/20.

Building Our Communities – Colleen Bickford

HUD is facilitating the 4/04 conference and would like input re the discussion tracks. Planning Group members are welcome at the steering committee meetings with ideas re speakers and broadening expectations from the conference.

NOTES re SHISHMAREF - Berney Richert

Shishmaref is located in the highly economically-distressed Norton Sound region on Sarichef Island, in the Chukchi Sea, just north of the Bering Strait within the Nome Census Area. Per capita income of the Census area is \$10,487, and 16.3% of the population lives below the poverty level. Official unemployment is 11.9% for the previous 24-month period, although the actual unemployment is far higher.

The economy is subsistence based, relying on seal and walrus to a large extent, and supplemented by part-time wage earnings. There is a central watering point in the community, and honey buckets are the norm. There has recently developed a severe lack of available water. Ground water has decreased and the demand by the community of over 600 has increased. .

The Village has had serious issues to deal with in the past few years. Erosion has been significant to the point that moving houses or belongings (when possible) has had to have priority. Houses have been lost to the sea during storms over the past few years.

The Tannery is the only real manufacturing plant in the village, and it is the backbone of an economy which impacts the entire region. The Tannery permits the use of the subsistence skins, provides sewing of skins for the slippers which are then sold, and provides income for beadwork on the slippers, as well. Every family benefits from the activities which surround the Tannery's activities. The Tannery relates positively to the individual activities of bone and ivory carvers and other craftspeople who work in their own homes. The total customer base of the Tannery is approximately 1,500.

The Tannery has successfully doubled its revenue in recent years. The operation has been profitable in a two of the recent four or five years, despite the dilapidated state of the two-story building now serving as the plant. A high percentage of the skins and furs are directed toward manufactured goods which are made by local Eskimos into slippers and other garments, such as mukluks, parkas, ruffs, hats, mittens and novelty items which are sold statewide, nationally and internationally.

The proposed investment will address the region's economic distress through the expansion and increased efficiency of the Tannery. Every family in Shishmaref benefits from the activities which surround the Tannery's activities. The applicant estimates that within Shishmaref alone some 114 jobs will be enhanced and saved. These jobs include hunters, trappers, sewers, beadworkers, and transportation and marketing jobs. Locally some 7 new positions will be created within the Tannery, plus 30 new sewer and beader jobs. Surrounding communities will also receive similar, though somewhat lessened impacts. Private sector investment in the various occupations should be approximately \$ 1 million.

Initial support by EDA in the amount of \$1,050,000 was to replace the old two-story building which is both inefficient and not responsive to modern tannery needs. Several other agencies including HUD and the Catholic Campaign for Human Development have assisted in this overall effort.

The recent EDA investment of \$525,000 will purchase and install a new technically-advanced desalinization and recycling water system, with engineering and architectural services, and necessary building modifications for installation. This high-tech component was originally to have been included in the Tannery. The Alaska Science and Technology Foundation (ASTF) (with NASA assisting on the technology) was working on providing this equipment as part of the match for the non-federal share. The Foundation fell on hard economic times during the past two years, and the Legislature has eliminated the endowment and ASTF will no longer exist. The new water system at the Tannery will permit full operation, and the investment will further serve as a demonstration project which may help provide potable water to villages with similar problems.

If the technology is as successful as expected, the benefits of potable water in villages with similar problems may be more readily addressed, and this technological approach should be replicable. The Triadetic Foundation will permit moving the structure should erosion continue as it has in recent years or should the village be forced to move to a new location, and is also a high-tech approach to rural problems.

Technical support and perhaps limited management, marketing and other training assistance would seem appropriate by other agencies.